

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

The Rudd Labor Party made its way into government on the sizeable platform of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

Professor Ross Garnaut was commissioned by the then Rudd shadow government to come up with what is now known as the Garnaut Climate Change Review. The recommendations of this review have not been adhered to by the Rudd government's model of a Carbon trading scheme. Even with the evidence contained in the Garnaut report and the recommendation that Australia should achieve a 25% reduction by 2020, in order to internationally achieve the target of 450ppm, the Rudd government still holds at a 5% reduction target (compared to 2000 levels). Garnaut's report says "Australia should indicate at an early date its preparedness to play its full, proportionate part in an effective global agreement that 'adds up' to either a 450 or a 550 emissions concentrations scenario, or to a corresponding point between."

The Greens have maintained the view that 5% is way too low. Combined with the Garnaut report and subsequent observations and studies, the Greens Senator, Christine Milne, said "Nobody seriously believes that a 5% target, which is the only certainty the Rudd Government is offering, is defensible.

"5% sends a signal to the rest of the world that the Australian Government continues to act in bad faith on climate change."

"5% sends a signal to Australian business that there is no need to change."

The apprehension in achieving the recommended target has been cited in killing industry (and subsequently jobs) and the question 'why should we make sacrifice as a nation if no one else in the world is prepared to?' The severe issues this country will experience with global warming ensure Australia a position in leading the world in reducing known factors of climate change. By leading the world in pollution reduction Australia will open the floodgates to sustainable industry in Australia and around the world. This is a great chance to show the rest of the world how it is meant to be done.

The Greens reiterated the urgency of moving toward carbon neutrality with a much more aggressive energy efficiency regime and a gross national feed in tariff. A feed-in tariff is a premium rate paid for electricity fed back into the electricity grid from a designated renewable electricity generation source like a rooftop solar system or wind turbine. At present, feed-in tariff regulations for renewable energy exist in over 40 countries around the world. Only certain Australian states have plans for such a tariff. This national act would require utility companies to purchase electricity generated from renewable resources such as domestic solar power systems at set rates. In the absence of a national act, Greens are pushing for local feed in tariffs.

With some good old Aussie "can do" attitude, we can do it and make a difference.

yours in a greener, sustainable world,

Mark Winter